

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT  
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 1  
Columbia River Compact  
July 27, 2000**

<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Review salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon stock status and consider treaty Indian and non-Indian fishing options.
<b>TAC:</b>	The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the fall Compact report and this Fact Sheet.

## 2000 Returns and Management Guidelines

### *Run Size Updates*

<i>Preseason Forecasts and Preliminary Returns of Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, and Sockeye Salmon Returning to the Columbia River in 2000</i>			
Stock	Preseason Forecast	Preliminary 2000 Return	Comments
<b>Spring Chinook</b>			
Willamette	59,900	60,000	Larger than 1999
Sandy	3,800	N/A	Similar to recent 5-year average
Cowlitz	2,000	1,500	Similar to recent poor return years
Kalama	1,400	2,000	Largest since 1993
Lewis	2,600	2,700	Largest since 1995
Upriver	134,000	178,300	Largest since 1973, 5 <sup>th</sup> largest since 1960
Snake River Wild	5,800	9,200	3 <sup>rd</sup> largest since 1988
Upper Columbia Wild	4,500	4,600	Destined for above Priest Rapids Dam
<b>Summer Chinook</b>			
Upriver	33,300	30,000	Largest since 1988
Snake River Wild	2,000	2,500	Similar to recent years returns
<b>Sockeye</b>			
Upriver	31,200	93,000	Largest since 1988
Wenatchee	5,500	26,900	
Okanogan	25,500	65,900	
Snake River	168	200	Based on Snake River dam counts

**Summary of Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Returns in 1999 and Forecasts For 2000. <sup>1/</sup>**

<b>Species, stock</b>	<b>1999 Run<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2000 Forecast<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Fall Chinook</b>	<b>313,100</b>	<b>328,900</b>	<b>Larger than recent 10-yr. average</b>
Upriver bright (URB)	166,100	208,200	Largest since 1989
Snake River wild (SRW)	2,739	1,764	Similar to recent 10-yr. average
Mid-Columbia bright (MCB)	49,600	58,400	Larger than recent 10-yr. average
Bonneville upriver bright (BUB)	13,400	17,900	
Pool upriver bright (PUB)	36,200	40,500	
Bonneville pool hatchery (BPH)	50,200	26,900	Similar to recent 10-yr. average
Lower river hatchery (LRH)	40,000	26,400	Record low return
Lower river wild (LRW)	3,300	2,700	Record low return
Lower river bright (LRB)	1,100	3,200	Formerly component of BUB stock
Select area bright (SAB)	2,900	3,100	Below recent 5-yr. average
<b>Upriver Summer Steelhead</b>	<b>205,700</b>	<b>254,000</b>	<b>Larger than recent 10-yr. average</b>
Skamania index (April 1 - June 30)	7,200	10,200	Similar to recent 5-yr. average
A-run index (length <78cm)	176,400	210,000	Largest since 1992
A-run index wild (length <78cm)	56,600	52,700	2 <sup>nd</sup> largest since 1991
B-run index (length ≥78cm)	22,100	33,800	Above recent 5-yr. average
B-run index wild (length ≥78cm)	3,700	11,000	2 <sup>nd</sup> largest since 1989
<b>Coho</b>	<b>260,700</b>	<b>450,200</b>	<b>Largest since 1991</b>
Early stock	153,500	253,600	Largest since 1991
Late stock	105,300	196,600	Largest since 1991

<sup>1</sup> Columbia River mouth return, except summer steelhead is Bonneville Dam return.

### **2000 Management Agreement**

- The Columbia River Fish Management Plan expired and is currently the subject of negotiations between the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho; the United States; the Columbia River treaty tribes, and the Shoshone-Bannock tribe.
- The states and tribes reached an agreement for management of 2000 fall fisheries on July 13, 2000. The 2000 Management Agreement allocates URB harvest rate (31.29%) 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.
- Salmon management guidelines are outlined in the "Joint Staff Report Concerning the 2000 In-River Commercial Harvest of Columbia River Fall Chinook Salmon, Summer Steelhead, Coho Salmon, and Sturgeon" (Page 24).

## Endangered Species Act

<b>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</b>		
<b>Species - ESU</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<b><u>Federally Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Chinook</u></b>		
Snake River Fall	Threatened	May 22, 1992
Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Chum</u></b>		
Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Steelhead</u></b>		
Snake River	Threatened	October 17, 1997
Upper Columbia River	Endangered	October 17, 1997
Middle Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
Lower Columbia River	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<b><u>Cutthroat Trout</u></b>		
Southwest Washington	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<b><u>Oregon State Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Coho</u></b>		
Lower Columbia	Endangered	July 16, 1999

## Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Allocation

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2000-2002 are guided by a Sturgeon Fishery Management Accord signed by the ODFW and WDFW Directors in March 2000.

<b>Major Tenets of the Joint State Accord on 2000-2002 Columbia River Sturgeon Fishery Management</b>	
✓	Management based on optimum sustained yield approach.
✓	Absent significant update, annual harvestable number is 50,000.
✓	Harvestable number may be adjusted if there is a significant population update resulting from new biological information, new analytical/theoretical approach, or a substantial change in harvest impacts outside of the Columbia Basin.
✓	Allocates white sturgeon harvestable number 80% sport (40,000) and 20% commercial (10,000).
✓	Sport and commercial seasons will be modified as necessary to ensure that average catch during the three-year period (2000-2002) does not exceed fishery specific harvestable number.
✓	Commercial target seasons are allowed as necessary to access allocation and maximize economic benefit consistent with conservation objectives for other species.
✓	Green sturgeon may be taken during white sturgeon commercial seasons but green sturgeon-only commercial seasons are not allowed and green sturgeon catch rate is not to exceed historical rates.
✓	Commercial size limits are 48"-60" for white sturgeon and 48"-66" for green sturgeon.
✓	Recreational size limit for white and green sturgeon is 42"-60" with one fish daily limit, ten fish annual (per calendar year) limit, and barbless hooks required.

- For the fall sport fishery in 2000: during August 16 - September 15 in the area below Wauna Power Lines (River mile 40), including Youngs Bay, and during November 1 – 30 in the area above Wauna Power Lines (River mile 40), retention of sturgeon by boat and bank anglers will be prohibited but catch and release angling may continue.
- Select Area fisheries will be managed as target salmon fisheries through the use of time, area, and gear restrictions. Gear restrictions will primarily consist of mesh size restrictions and will be phased in during the next few years to limit economic impact on participating fishers.

### **Zone 6 Sturgeon Allocation**

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) develops management goals and guidelines for both treaty Indian and non-Indian fisheries in the Zone 6 management area based on current stock assessment data.
- The goals and catch guidelines for 2000 are the same as those adopted for 1998 and 1999 fisheries.
- Recreational catch guidelines are: 1,520 for Bonneville Pool; 600-800 The Dalles Pool; and 560 for John Day Pool.
- Treaty Indian commercial catch guidelines are: 1,300 for Bonneville Pool; 1,000-1,200 for the Dalles Pool; and 1,160 for John Day Pool.
- The SMTF expects the treaty Indian subsistence sturgeon catch to be 300 or less.

## **2000 Stock Status and Fisheries**

### **Summer Steelhead**

<b>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</b>						
		July 25	Cumulative Total Through July 25			
		Daily	2000	1999	1998	1997
Bonneville	Skamania Index	0	16,542	7,200	9,400	11,900
	Group A Index		54,027	29,200	24,600	27,900
	Group B Index		984	900	600	1,500
	Total		71,501	37,300	34,600	41,300
The Dalles		997	27,676	13,700	11,000	14,200
John Day		809	23,471	13,700	10,700	10,800
McNary		902	12,599	5,600	6,900	8,300
Ice Harbor		418	5,892	3,000	2,900	3,200
Lower Granite		89	2,414	900	1,000	1,100
Priest Rapids		70	1,341	400	500	400

- A total of 16,542 summer steelhead passed Bonneville Dam during April 1 - June 30 (Skamania index) which was the largest total since 1990 and nearly doubled the recent 5-year average of 9,500.

- The Skamania index return was well above the preseason forecast of 10,200.
- Summer steelhead passage since July 1 is tracking well above preseason expectations. Based on the recent 10-year average 13% of the combined Group A and B runs pass Bonneville Dam by July 25.
- The percent wild fish in the run increased from 33% in early June to 42% as of July 23. Wild fish typically peak this time of the year.
- During July 1-23 sampling data at Bonneville Dam indicates that wild fish have comprised 41.3% of the run.
- Wild fish passing during July 1-23 have been comprised of 99% Group A index and 1% Group B index fish.
- To date an estimated 19,300 Group A wild index steelhead and 334 wild Group B index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam. The Group A wild index count to date is similar to counts observed during the strong return years of 1984-1989.
- Typically 21% of the wild Group A index and 6% of the wild Group B index pass Bonneville Dam by July 23.
- Mainstem steelhead fishing has been slow along lower Columbia beaches but the boat fishery has picked up in recent weeks.
- In June, an estimated 1,100 hatchery steelhead were kept in the lower Columbia River downstream of Bonneville Dam, which is higher than 1998 and 1999.

### ***White Sturgeon Fisheries***

- Catch in the lower Columbia sport fishery through June 30 this year is estimated to be 18,447 white sturgeon from 107,807 angler trips.
- Based on catch and effort data collected through Sunday July 23 the Joint Staff has projected that 10,500 white sturgeon will be landed in July.

<b><i>Sturgeon Catch and Effort Through July in the Lower Columbia River Sport Fishery, 1994-1999</i></b>				
<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Angler Trips</u></b>	<b><u>Legals Kept</u></b>	<b><u>CPUE Kept/Trip</u></b>	
2000 *	148,400	28,900	0.195	One fish bag all year, retention prohibited in estuary during April.
1999	137,700	28,500	0.207	One fish bag all year.
1998	150,700	31,200	0.207	One fish bag all year.
1997	145,600	27,300	0.187	One fish bag all year.
1996	135,200	32,100	0.237	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) prior to 4/1/96 and one fish bag thereafter.
1995	166,600	39,400	0.237	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) all year, fishery closed early.
1994	114,300	17,900	0.157	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) all year.

\*July effort and catch projected based on data through July 23.

- Total angler trips in June were at near record high levels and angler trips in July are projected to be a record high of 40,500.
- Through July the 2000 CPUE (sturgeon kept/angler) of 0.195 is similar to the last three years.

<b>Sturgeon Catch to Date and Guidelines for 2000</b>			
	Catch to Date	Guideline	Comments
<b>Lower Columbia</b>			
<b>Non-Indian</b>			
Commercial	2,713	10,000	7,287 remain on guideline.
Sport	28,900	40,000	Catch estimate through July. 11,100 remain on guideline.
<b>Zone 6</b>			
<b>Treaty Indian Commercial</b>			
Bonneville	1,145	1,300	Closed 6 pm June 5.
The Dalles	1,456	1,000-1,200	Closed 4 pm March 20.
John Day	490	1,160	Catch estimate through July 9. Setline season open through July 31.
Commercial Total	3,091	3,460-3,660	
Treaty Indian Subsistence	130	300	
Total Treaty Indian	3,221	3,760-3,960	
<b>Non-Indian Sport</b>			
Bonneville	1,222	1,520	Closed April 8.
The Dalles	811	600-800	Closed June 19.
John Day	105	560	Catch estimate through June 30.
Total Non-Indian	1,920	2,680-2,880	

- To date 584 white sturgeon have been landed in the Select Area commercial fisheries as compared to 1999 when 523 were landed through this same time period.

### ***Fall Chinook/Coho - Sport Fisheries***

- The Buoy 10 fishery (from the mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) is scheduled to open August 1 for chinook, adipose fin marked coho, and adipose fin marked steelhead. Daily salmon/steelhead bag limit is two fish of which only one may be a chinook.
- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opens for chinook and coho on August 1. Unmarked coho must be released downstream from John Day Dam. A chinook angling sanctuary will be in place around the mouth of the Lewis River during August 1 through December 31.

- Oregon tributaries will generally open August 1 for chinook as per permanent regulations. The lower Clackamas and Sandy rivers are open for adipose fin clipped coho from September 1-October 31. In several other Oregon tributaries below Bonneville Dam coho angling is allowed, but only adipose fin marked coho may be kept.
- Washington tributaries above Bonneville Dam will open August 1 for fall chinook and coho. Below Bonneville Dam all tributaries will be open for finclipped coho, but only the Elokomin and Kalama rivers will be open for chinook.

## **Non-Indian Fishery Proposals**

### ***Commercial Sturgeon Fishery***

<b><i>Proposed Season</i></b>	
Season:	7 PM Thursday Aug 3 to 7 AM Friday Aug 4 (12 hours).
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomin-A, Big Creek, and Gnat Creek sanctuaries are in place.
Area:	Mouth to Longview Bridge.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon and salmon.
Expected Catch:	1,500-3,000 white sturgeon. 500-1,500 green sturgeon 300 chinook (<1 SRW)

#### **Rationale:**

- This fishery is consistent with the Joint State Sturgeon Accord.
- The fishery will allow access to a portion of the commercial catch allocation for white sturgeon while avoiding salmon and minimizing impacts to listed chinook and steelhead.
- Fishery is similar in duration, area, and time frame as those adopted in recent years.
- The short 12-hour duration (one tide) is designed to limit the catch and maximize the economic benefit.
- The 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction is highly effective in reducing steelhead and sublegal sturgeon handle in the August time frame.
- Late evening/night-time fishing will minimize sport/commercial conflicts.
- Green sturgeon harvest rate expected to be within historical levels.
- At least 4,200 white sturgeon are expected to remain on the commercial allocation if this fishery is adopted.
- Some members of the commercial industry have requested that this fishery occur during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August.

### ***Buoy 10 Sport Salmon Fishery***

- The Joint Staff proposes to use the following guidelines in managing the Buoy 10 sport fishery for 2000.

<b><i>Management Guidelines</i></b>	
✓	Fishery will be managed for a total catch and mortality quota of 9,000 chinook.
✓	When chinook quota is reached, chinook retention will be prohibited but fishery will remain open for finclipped coho angling.
✓	Bag limit and boundary changes adopted during the North of Falcon management process will be in place.

#### **Rationale:**

- Non-Indian fisheries are limited to an 8.25% of URB run.
- URB impacts from Buoy 10 fishery under aforementioned quota expected to be 1.9%.
- Limiting Buoy 10 fishery impacts allows for management flexibility necessary for other sport and commercial fisheries to occur as planned.
- Improved return of coho expected in 2000 will allow for fishing opportunity when chinook retention is prohibited.

### ***Below Bonneville Sport Sturgeon Fishery***

- Currently adopted regulations will prohibit the retention of sturgeon in the area from Buoy 10 to the Wauna powerlines (river mile 40) during August 16 through September 15 and in the area from Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam during the month of November.
- On July 25, ODFW and WDFW met with sport fishing industry leaders to consider changes to the currently adopted retention restrictions and consensus was reached on the following items:
  - 1) August and November retention restrictions should be eliminated
  - 2) Mid-August update should occur to determine necessity of retention restrictions during the August 26 through September 30 timeframe.
  - 3) If necessary timeframe for notifying public of any retention regulation changes should be shortened to less than two weeks.



- Based on industry input the Joint Staff developed the following recommendations.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate currently adopted retention restrictions in place for August 16-31 and November 1-30.</li> <li>• Maintain currently adopted retention restriction for below Wauna powerlines (river mile 40) during September, subject to mid-August update.</li> <li>• Consider modifications to retention restriction regulations at August 18 Compact hearing.</li> </ul>

**Rationale:**

- Proposed retention restriction would be consistent with the Joint State Sturgeon Accord.
- Without August and November retention restrictions, catch is expected to remain within the 40,000 catch guideline.
- Without September retention restriction, catch may exceed 40,000 catch guideline.
- September retention restriction can be modified at a future Compact hearing.
- Staff recommendation is supported by sport fishing industry leaders.

***Treaty Indian Fishery Proposals***

- The Columbia River treaty tribes may make a recommendation at the hearing.

**Next Compact Hearing**

- The Joint Staff recommends the next Compact hearing to be held on August 18, 2000 at 10 a.m. at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, headquarters commission room, 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
July 27, 2000